

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Christopher Brett Ward  
Serial Number : 10/501,277  
Filing Date : September 3, 2004  
Title : HYDROMETALLURGICAL  
PROCESSING OF MANGANESE  
CONTAINING MATERIALS  
Examiner : Arun S. Phasge  
Group Art Unit : 1795

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Applicant submits these remarks in response to the outstanding Office Action mailed December 1, 2009. Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested, based upon the arguments set forth below and based upon the accompanying Declaration of Prof. Michael J. Nicol, an expert in the field of the present invention (extractive metallurgy, and particularly hydrometallurgy), and which is being